

2017 Annual Report

Timberlake Fire Protection District

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Letter from the Chief

I am pleased to present the 2017 Annual Report to the Timberlake Fire Protection District- Board of Fire Commissioners. TLFD continues on a path of quality improvement with our team members who are giving their very best daily and striving to carry out our mission.

2017 was another year filled with positive accomplishments which included: responding to a record number of calls for services from our customers (tax payers) and visitors; Kootenai County Emergency Medical Services and Bonner County EMS created a new BLS transport response area which Spirit Lake Fire District and Timberlake are the primary response agencies; completing a record number of new residential building plan reviews and inspections for fire code compliance; the “Crossing” Super One development project; continuing with a high level of fire and EMS training opportunities; and providing fire prevention and public education activities.

Hopefully, with new career employees hired, our career work force will stabilize and the turnover rate will slow down significantly, while recognizing we will not be able to compete with the much larger agency’s salaries and benefits. We are working closely with Local 4483. Recently the District and Local signed a three year Collective Bargaining Agreement. This contract provides modest cost of living salary increases, upward mobility with additional salary increases and improved benefits, while the District continues living within our means. Staff continues daily dialog with the Local in an effort to find opportunities for further improvements and retention. The District completed its annual financial audit with no discrepancies or findings, well done Brittany.

Our volunteer team continues to grow at a slow pace. However, we believe that quality volunteers are much more valuable to the District than quantity. In other words, our Team is being much pickier than in the past. The trend nationally is that volunteers for most disciplines’ fire service included are becoming significantly harder to recruit and retain, while training requirements are continuing to increase becoming more time consuming and expensive.

Several Board-approved major projects were completed on time and within budget including:

Completion of the federal excess military chase being converted to a tender; repairing the front of Station 1 with new apron blacktop; repainted front door and added a window; west side porch entry roof; a new HVAC system; a FEMA grant was approved for a new station generator; the addition of the City of Athol’s original fire bell - thank you to Lieutenant Rennison for the lead of that project; the remodel of Clagstone Station 3 for our new resident program; Cape Horn Fire FMAG financial recovery; and an ISRB re-rating evaluation, just to name a few accomplishments of our team in 2017. Wow!

This annual report will be an overview for our renewed Strategic Planning effort to inform our public what we have accomplished, where we are today, and obtain input from our public where our organization should be heading.

I am very proud of our team including the Board, career staff, volunteers/support services and our administrative assistant. I am honored and humbled to be a part of this great organization.

Bill Steele
Fire Chief

Mission Statement, Department Objectives

Mission Statement

The Timberlake Fire Protection District will reduce the loss of life, protect property, and minimize environmental damage by providing effective public education, fire, medical, rescue and other services in a professional and efficient manner.

Service Area

TFPD is a combination department (approximately 30% paid and 70% volunteer) which was formed in 1999 by the consolidation of the Athol and Bayview Fire Districts. We provide fire, EMS (including BLS transport), rescue, new construction plan reviews and inspections, as well as first responder hazardous materials response. We currently maintain an ISO/ISRB class rating of class 4 for areas with hydrants and class 8 for areas without hydrants. The District comprises 87 square miles within Kootenai County and the Little Blacktail Community of Bonner County. Our population is approximately 8,500 permanent and our summer population exceeds 22,000.

Fire District Board of Commissioners

District 1 – Commissioner Robyn Edwards- Appointed

redwards@timberlakefire.com

District 2 – Commissioner Bob Schaff - Elected

bschaff@timberlakefire.com

District 3 – Commissioner Shane Stavros- Elected

sstavros@timberlakefire.com

District 4 – Commissioner Rudy Rudebaugh – Board Chair- Elected

rrudebaugh@timberlakfire.com

District 5 – Commissioner Sam Conner- Elected

sconner@timberlakefire.com

OUR STATIONS



Headquarters – Athol



Station 2 - Silverwood



Station 3 – Clagstone



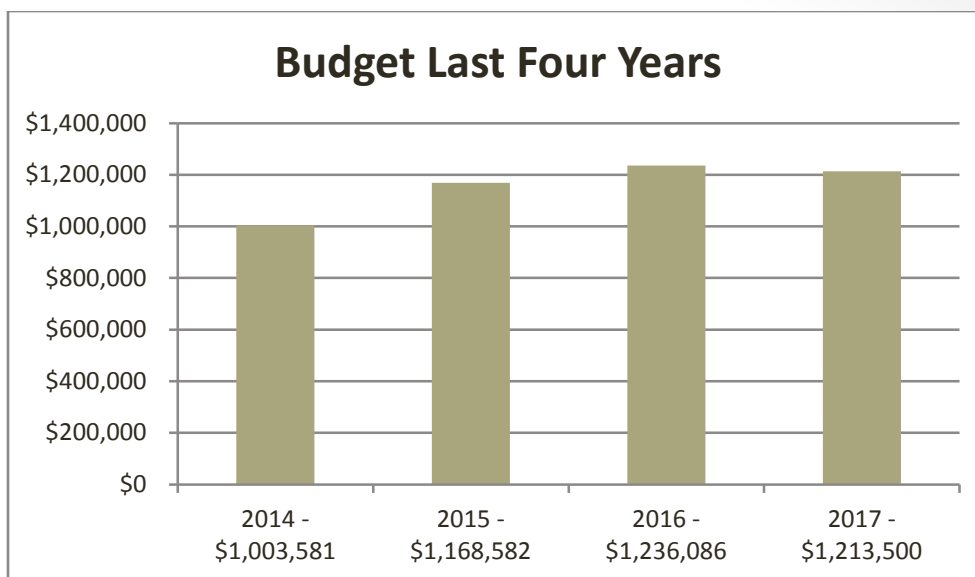
Station 4 – Farragut SP



Station 5 – Bayview



Station 6 – Little Blacktail



Operations & Training

During 2017, we completed over 25,000 hours of training as a department. 2017 found us with most of our career staff on probation due to new hires and promotions. The task was daunting but the number of training hours shows the dedication and perseverance of your staff!

Career staff turnover was an extreme hurdle that we had to overcome during 2017. All four career firefighters were hired in 2017 and two of our Lieutenants were promoted as well. Two of our new career firefighters were internal hires with several years of service (between the two of them) in the department. Our other two new hires, along with two volunteer firefighters, completed an in-house Recruit Academy that focused on enhancing their Firefighter I skills and preparing them to be Driver/Operators. Today, all of these firefighters are currently serving our citizens. Our other recruit is now completing her probation with the Spokane Fire Department.

Our new career firefighters had to complete a rigorous six-month probationary period and it is extremely pleasurable to report that all of them have successfully completed their probationary process.

The Fire District purchased a used engine to replace the engine that failed the pump test and was surplus. The used engine was placed into service at Station 3 and serves as our replacement engine when the Pierce engine is out of service for maintenance and repairs.

We also placed the Military Chassis in service after being retrofitted as a Tender. It was contracted out to IDL for a late season wildland fire and performed extremely well. Unfortunately this past winter it experienced significant mechanical problems with the front-end and we are still contemplating how to perform the repairs.

New to our fleet is a used plow truck which was purchased and placed into service just in time for winter to provide plenty of snow removal. This purchase provided a much safer vehicle for our team to operate while completing this very important task. This purchase also helped us to complete our snow removal in a much quicker time frame.

All of our certified engines passed their annual pump testing in 2017. In addition, all of our ladders and fire hose were tested by a third party testing company. The Resident Volunteer Program was initiated during 2017 and we are very fortunate to have our first Volunteer Resident at Clagstone Station 3. We are still recruiting and the goal is to have three Residents at Station 3.

We had an extremely busy year with large and complex fires. There were three large commercial fires that taxed our abilities. The fire at Merritt Brothers Mill not only was a large dollar loss, but resulted in one less major employer within our fire district. The Vaagen Lumber Company suffered a total loss of the planner part of the mill and was not able resume operations, resulting in a loss of all the jobs to the community. The positive thing with this fire was that we were able to save multiple other buildings and a huge amount of finished lumber. Our team performed exemplary and thanks to the great mutual aid relationship that we enjoy within the county.

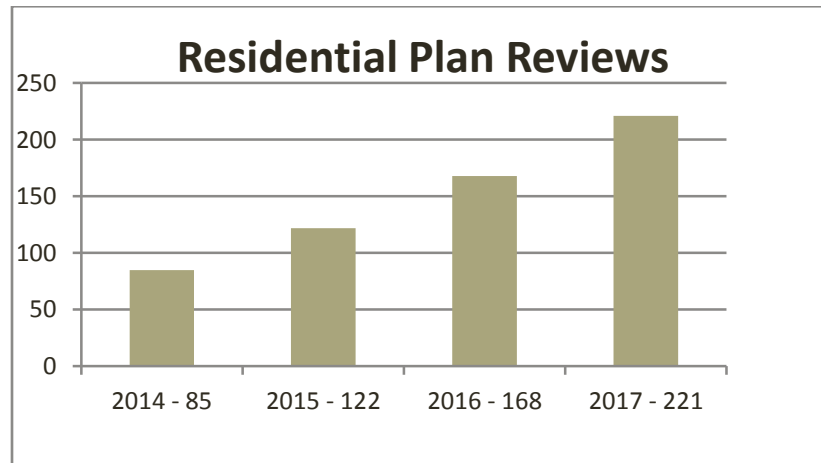
A major loss was averted at Chilco Mill when a chip pile caught fire. Our on-duty crew was on another structure fire along with the rest of normal mutual aid resources that would have been assigned. Our Engine was able to clear the structure fire and respond. Other mutual aid resources were added to the call as well. The crews performed an excellent initial attack and prevented a major incident. These types of fires can become very stubborn and take days to completely extinguish.

The longest lasting and troublesome fire was the Site Solutions Incident. This involved a huge pile of wood debris that was being ground into "Hug Fuel" that caught fire during the grinding process and required resources from all over the region, plus a strike team from Spokane County.

This fire would tax our abilities for several days and hopefully goes down in history as the longest lasting non-wildland type fire in the record book. Our personnel worked very long, hard shifts to bring this incident to close with staff and regional partners making it possible for us to successfully mitigate this incident and continue to respond to our normal calls for service.

Fire Prevention

Construction in the County and our district continues to grow. 2017 had Chief Tubbs join the staff part time and he gets most of the plan reviews and inspection requests for construction. This included the Super 1 project on top of residential construction projects. Grant writing has become his Olympic event as we search for alternative means of funding projects that we just don't have funding for.



*- this also includes another 39 projects that were finalized from 2015 & 2016 and does not include the commercial plan reviews and inspections.

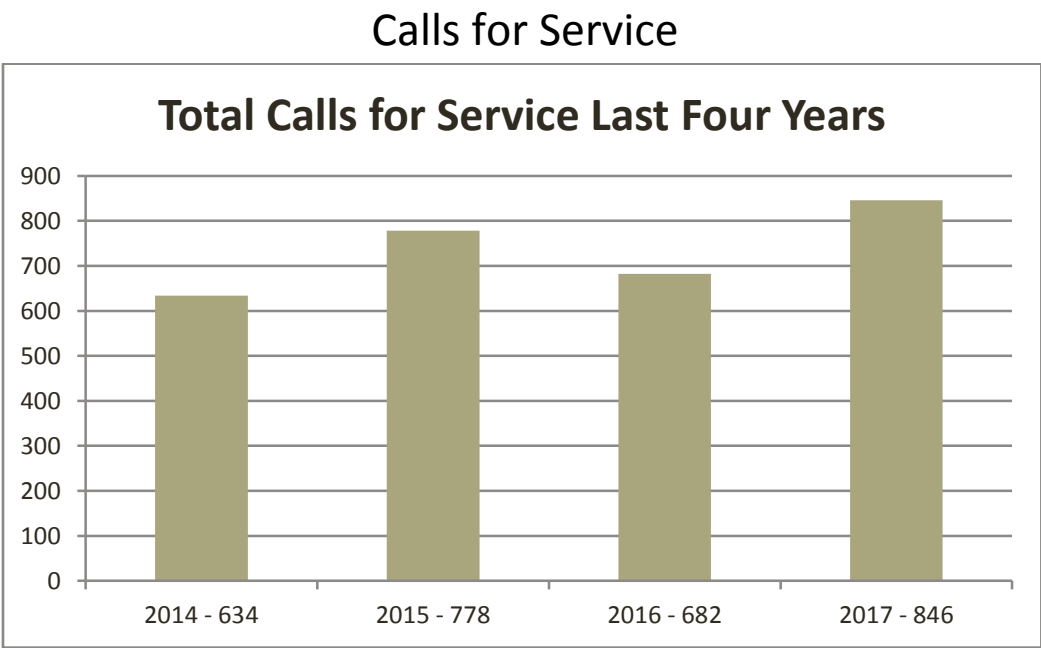
Community Involvement

As always, the staff sought to attend a multitude of events throughout the year. Hosting the annual pancake breakfast, participating in Athol Daze, Athol Easter Egg Hunt, Bayview Daze, Kootenai County Fair public education booth, Idaho Forest Owners Group, hosting the annual Halloween Open House, passing out turkeys at the Athol Food Bank for Thanksgiving, Bayview & Athol Christmas Tree lighting events, and so many more! More than 750 staff hours were reported for the year!

Our career & volunteer team members once again led the way with the food drive for the Athol food bank and gathered more than 900 pounds of food for local families during Christmas. They also collected and donated 1500 pounds of turkeys for Thanksgiving.

Our team did the annual Christmas Parades in Athol & Bayview, including the annual toy drive. They also created their annual Breast Cancer Awareness fund raiser event and then sold the support t-shirts which was used to fund support for a community member. The firefighters are deeply committed to our communities and strive to show it every day and every call for service and aid.

Your TFPD team is doing an incredible job for the small but mighty team that we are!



Final words and thoughts

Your team has done a lot of work during the last few years. Our goal is to continue to improve our service levels and equipment and to continue to serve our community better.

This presentation is meant to share where we have come from in few years and what we are doing to continue to improve our services to the public.